

# MISCELLANY

Under this department are ordinarily grouped: News Items; Letters; Special Articles; Twenty-Five Years Ago column; California Board of Medical Examiners; and other columns as occasion may warrant. Items for News column must be furnished by the fifteenth of the preceding month. For Book Reviews, see index on the front cover, under Miscellany.

## NEWS

### Coming Meetings†

**California Medical Association.** Session will convene in Los Angeles. Headquarters, Hotel Biltmore, 5th and Olive Sts. Dates of meetings: Tuesday, May 7-Friday, May 10, 1946.

**American Medical Association.** The A.M.A. House of Delegates will convene in Chicago, Dec. 3-6, 1945. (See J.A.M.A., Sept. 22, 1945.) In 1946, at San Francisco.

### The Platform of the American Medical Association

The American Medical Association advocates:

1. *The establishment of an agency of Federal Government under which shall be coördinated and administered all medical and health functions of the Federal Government, exclusive of these of the Army and Navy.*

2. *The allotment of such funds as the Congress may make available to any state in actual need for the prevention of disease, the promotion of health, and the care of the sick or proof of such need.*

3. *The principle that the care of the public health and the provision of medical service to the sick is primarily a local responsibility.*

4. *The development of a mechanism for meeting the needs of expansion of preventive medical services with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

5. *The extension of medical care for the indigent and the medically indigent with local determination of needs and local control of administration.*

6. *In the extension of medical services to all the people, the utmost utilization of qualified medical and hospital facilities already established.*

7. *The continued development of the private practice of medicine, subject to such changes as may be necessary to maintain the quality of medical service and to increase their availability.*

8. *Expansion of public health and medical services consistent with the American system of democracy.*

(Ed. Note.—Interpretative comments on principles included in the A.M.A. platform appear in CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE for December, 1939, on pages 394-395. For subsequent comment, see J.A.M.A., June 24, 1944, pp. 574-576. Also, August, 1945, CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, pp. 61-62.) On p. 61 (C.M.A.) and p. 62 (A.M.A.)

### Medical Broadcasts\*

**The Los Angeles County Medical Association:**

In November, KFAC will present broadcasts on Saturdays at 10:15 a.m.: November 3, 10, 17 and 24.

The Saturday broadcasts of KFI are given at 9:45 a.m., under the title, "The Road to Health."

"Doctors at War":

For radio broadcasts of "Doctors at War" by the American Medical Association, see J.A.M.A.

† In the front advertising section of *The Journal of the American Medical Association*, various rosters of national officers and organizations appear each week, each list being printed about every fourth week. In CALIFORNIA AND WESTERN MEDICINE, some rosters appear in every second or third issue.

\* County societies giving medical broadcasts are requested to send information as soon as arranged.

### Pharmacological Items of Potential Interest to Clinicians\*:

1. **Bookish:** C. W. Heath & Co. worked hard to describe *What People Are: A Study of Normal Young Men* (Harvard Press, Cambridge, 1945, 141 pp., \$2 and worth it). H. R. Raper's *Man Against Pain*; *The Epic of Anesthesia* is well, popularly and vigorously written, with merely a few minor inaccuracies and questionable judgments (Prentice-Hall, N. Y., 1945, 337 pp., \$3.50). A. R. Griffin makes hay *Out of Carnage*, retelling medicine's contributions in war (Soskin, N. Y., 1945, 327 pp., \$3). R. Caballero analyses Pasteur's philosophical influence (*Pasteur: Estudio Integral de sus Obras el Hombre, el Filosofo, el Creyente*, Univ. Nac. Litoral, Rosario, 1945, 147 pp.). H. D. W. Smyth's War Dept. report on the atom bomb is now available (*Atomic Energy for Military Purposes*, Princeton Press, 1945, 264 pp., \$2, and full of basic information, so why talk of secrecy?). W. L. Laurence's descriptions of the tests on atom bombing appear serially in *N. Y. Times* beginning Sept. 26, 1945. R. N. Ironside & Co. offer *Aviation Neuro-Psychiatry* (Livingston, Edinburgh, 1945, 176 pp., 8s 6d). M. Sherman discusses *Intelligence and Its Deviations* (Ronald Press, N. Y., 1945, 286 pp., \$3.75). J. M. Hunt writes on *Personality and the Behavior Disorders* (Ronald Press, N. Y., 1945, 2 vols., 1242 pp., \$10). L. du Nouy offers *Studies in Biophysics: Critical Temperature of Serum (56°)* (Reinhold, N. Y., 1945, 183 pp., \$3.50). K. A. Pederson reports *Ultracentrifugal Studies on Serum Fractions* (Almqvist & Wiksells, Upsala, Sweden, 1945, 178 pp., \$2.5). R. Lillie wisely theorizes on *General Biology and Philosophy of Organism* (Univ. Chicago Press, 1945, \$3). I. G. Macy and H. H. Williams cry over *Hidden Hunger: Tragedy of the Unbalanced Diet* (Cattell, Lancaster, 1945, 286 pp., \$3). O. Temkin gives account of *The Falling Sickness: A History of Epilepsy* (Johns Hopkins Press, Balt., 1945, 380 pp., \$4). K. Horney notes *Our Inner Conflicts* (Norton, N. Y., 1945, 250 pp., \$3). H. S. Mustard discusses *Government in Public Health* (Commonwealth, N. Y., 1945, 219 pp., \$1.50). Have you discovered 19 year old Tommy Wadellton, Pfc., and his *Silver Buckles on His Knee* (Coward-McCann, N. Y., 1945), author of *Army Brat, My Father is a Quiet Man*, and *Mother is a Violent Woman*? Then there's Joe Jackson's *Viking Portable Murder Book* (Viking Press, N. Y., 1945, 570 pp., \$2), if you're interested.

2. **Fascistish?** Interesting proposals for Federal support (and control?) of scientific research and education by V. Bush (*Science: The Endless Frontier*, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, 1945, 184 pp.), L. Chalkley (*Science*, 102:289, Sept. 21, 1945), W. Kaempfert (*N. Y. Times*, July 22 and later), and Senators Magnuson, Kilgore & Co. Is there danger of scientific orthodoxy by continued control of small eastern group of national scientific societies, scientific journals, and now of national funds for support of scientific research and education. For English reaction note editorial on freedom of scientific intercourse (*Nature*, 156:215, Aug. 25, 1945).

3. **Schoolish:** Stimulating symposium on medical education (*Lancet*, 2:225-237, Aug. 25, 1945). J. J. Izquierdo

\* These items submitted by Dr. Chauncey D. Leake, formerly director of the University of California Pharmacological Laboratory, now dean of the University of Texas Medical School, Galveston, Texas.

confirms our finding of defects in premedic physics and chemistry training, and gives fine appreciation of W. B. Cannon (*Gac. Med. Mex.*, 75:101, 132, 1945). Some medical students say what they think about medical schools (*J. Asso. Am. Med. Coll.*, 20:296, 1945).

4. *Antibiotish*: G. Lapage reviews recent reports on uses and limitations of penicillin (*Nature*, 156, 244, Aug. 25, 1945). A. L. Barach & Co. find tablespoonful aluminum hydroxide gives practical oral administration of penicillin (*Science*, 102:247, Sept. 7, 1945). J. C. Lewis & Co. find formaldehyde treated gramicidin loses hemolytic and toxic action but not antibiotic (*Ibid.*, p. 274, Sept. 14, 1945). D. Perlstein and A. J. Liebmman announce production of anti-penicillinase immune sera (*Science*, 102:197, Aug. 24, 1945). W. F. Elias & Co. bacteriostatic activity in human sera (*Ibid.*, p. 223, Aug. 31, 1945).

5. *Worthish*: Note symposium on electroshock therapy (*J. Nerv. Ment. Dis.*, 102:221-247, 1945). H. E. Malosetti describes suboccipital encephalography (*Anal. Fac. Med. Montevideo*, 30:341-526, 1945). L. A. Surraco and J. Lockhart find IV injection of magnesium hyposulfite useful in causalgic symptoms of hot painful foot syndrome (*Ibid.*, p. 293). E. B. Astwood & Co. note reversible motor paralysis after repeated dithiobiuret (*Science*, 102:196, Aug. 24, 1945). D. Nachmansohn and H. M. John find choline acetylating enzyme system in nerve axon and suggest relation to phosphate bond energy and nerve action potential (*Ibid.*, p. 250, Sept. 1, 1945). O. W. Smith and G. V. Smith report a fibrinolytic enzyme in menstruation and pregnancy toxemia (*Ibid.*, p. 253). H. Keil notes biochemorphology of Anacardiaceae (*Ibid.*, p. 279, Sept. 14, 1945).

**President-Elect Samuel J. McClendon Addresses Woman's Auxiliary to the San Francisco County Medical Society.**—On Tuesday, November 20th in the Headquarters Building of the San Francisco County Medical Society at 2180 Washington Street, at 1:30 P.M. Doctor Samuel J. McClendon, President-Elect of the California Medical Association, will give an address to the Woman's Auxiliary. His topic will be "General Medical Trends and Legislation." Members of the profession and their families are invited to attend the meeting. Further information may be obtained from the office of the San Francisco County Medical Society, Washington and Laguna Streets, San Francisco, telephone WALnut 6100.

**The American College of Radiology.**—It is tentatively planned to have the next Annual Meeting of the College at the place of the 1946 convention of the American Medical Association, probably on the Sunday prior to the week of the A.M.A. meeting.

The place of the 1946 A.M.A. meeting has not yet been selected. No meeting will be held in 1945. The A.M.A. House of Delegates will meet in Chicago during the week of December 3.

Highlight of the week will be a banquet, to be held in the Grand Ballroom of the Palmer House at 7 P.M. on November 8, under the sponsorship of the Commission on Public Relations. The occasion will commemorate the fiftieth anniversary of the discovery of the x-ray.

President Lowell S. Goin, of Los Angeles, will preside. The principal speaker will be Dr. Robert S. Stone, Professor of Radiology at the University of California and a member of the staff of the University of Chicago which collaborated on the "Manhattan project" in development of the atomic bomb. Doctor Stone will speak on "Radiology, From Roentgen to the Era of Atomic Energy."

**West Virginia State Medical Association.**—The seventy-ninth annual meeting of the West Virginia State Medical Association will be held at the Hotel Prichard in Huntington, West Virginia, May 13-14-15, 1946.

(The next annual session of the California Medical Association will be held in Los Angeles commencing Tuesday, May 7, 1945 through Friday, May 10th. A four day session. Headquarters will be at Hotel Biltmore.)

**Plutonium Research Hinged on Cyclotron.**—Lack of a large cyclotron, such as the one on the Berkeley campus of the University of California, may have been the factor which thwarted German scientists in their search for the secret of harnessing atomic energy.

This is the statement of Dr. Charles D. Coryell, associate professor of chemistry on the Los Angeles campus of the University of California, who has been working on the atomic bomb project at Chicago and Oak Ridge, Tennessee, since May, 1942.

Speaking at a University seminar, Dr. Coryell pointed out that the large cyclotron made possible certain studies of plutonium, the material eventually employed in the bomb dropped on Nagasaki.

**Men Get Tired—But Science Keeps Them Going.**—Experiments involving volunteer "human guinea pigs," including a 112-hour "insomniathon" last July, have successfully minimized the fatigue of sleeplessness and seasickness of combat troops, the California Institute of Technology recently disclosed.

Dr. David B. Tyler, Professor of Physiology who directed the tests, said military censorship still prevented disclosure of the techniques by which scientists were able to keep soldiers awake through long periods of combat.

Nationwide attention was focused on the project last July when a dozen drooping conscientious objectors stayed awake for five consecutive days. They underwent constant physiological, psychological, and chemical tests on the effects of fatigue.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 29.

**Malpractice Insurance Rates for Radiologists Increased.**—While negotiations were in progress between the American College of Radiologists and a large American insurance company for a special blanket malpractice policy for Members and Fellows of the College, news was received last week of a sharp increase in premiums for the Lloyd's of London policy now held by a large number of College members. Varying in designated states, premiums for \$25,000/\$75,000 limits were raised from a fraction to more than 200 per cent in some states on renewals after October 1.

Pending the execution of a blanket policy with the company with which negotiations were being held, members were advised to consult local agents concerning protection in the event they hold Lloyd's policies which expire during the next six months.

Established companies now give adequate coverage for radiologists at reasonable rates in a few states, such as Pennsylvania, New York, and Maryland. In others, rates have been almost prohibitive except under the Lloyd's agreement, and in certain western states, even Lloyd's has charged more than \$300 for \$25,000/\$75,000 limits. Now the Lloyd's premiums are being increased throughout North America.

**Uranium.**—Prominent among the famous group of German apothecaries whose work led to the identification of many of the elements was Martin Heinrich Klaproth (1743-1817), discoverer of uranium. According to the

*History of Pharmacy*, by Kremers and Urdang (J. B. Lippincott), Klaproth was outstanding even in this gifted group. His discoveries were not accidental but due to his extraordinary skill in analysis, both qualitative and quantitative. Besides uranium, Klaproth is credited with the discovery of zirconium and cerium, and with verification of the elemental character of tellurium, strontium, titanium, chromium and yttrium. Most of Klaproth's work was done in a small laboratory in his own pharmacy.

**Press Clippings.**—Some news items from the daily press on matters related to medical practice follow:

**California Institutions Housing 5,944 Excess Patients**

Sacramento, Oct. 15.—(AP.)—California's institutions for the insane, mentally defective and blind have an excess population above normal capacity of 5,944 persons, an overcrowding of nearly 25 per cent, Director Dora Shaw Heffner, of the Department of Institutions, reported today.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 16.

**Another "Day" Proposed**

As if the calendar were not already heavily enough overloaded with special "days" dedicated to exhortations for people to eat more bread, wear bigger and better straw hats, add vitamin pills to the diet and do their washing with this or that brand of soap, a move is afoot to establish "officially" another special day. And what a day! A Senate joint resolution would authorize and request the President "to issue a proclamation designating the 31st day of October of each year as National Arthritis Day."

We presume the purpose is to focus universal attention intensively on that disease on a designated day in the hope that greater gains could be made in preventing and curing that particular malady. And if the plan could be effective in overcoming that affliction, the logical procedure would be to dedicate a special day for similar concentration on every other disease. The result would be a bumper crop of hypochondriacs.

By all means, research by qualified experts should continue in the effort to curb arthritis, as well as all other maladies that add to human suffering. But such research can be carried on quite as well without nationwide concentration on it once a year as it could if the public were to take such an officially proclaimed day seriously.

It will be recalled that a few years ago the medical profession itself established unofficially a Cancer Week in which all of us were supposed to give thought to the causes and symptoms of cancer and determine whether we were personally endangered. We cannot say whether there were any real cancers prevented by that promotional process, but we do know that thousands of imaginary ones were created by it.

The medicos soon dropped their Cancer Week plan.—*Burlington Advance*, October 8.

**Dr. Robert A. Peers, Resigned Mayor of Colfax Is Banqueted**

Colfax (Placer Co.), Oct. 8.—Dr. Robert A. Peers, who resigned in July as mayor of Colfax, was the honored guest at a banquet held here last night attended by members of the city council, the Placer County Defense Council and other city and county officials.

The former mayor, who served on the city council for nearly 24 years, was presented with an embossed resolution by his former associates. Judge Lowell L. Sparks, in behalf of the defense council, of which Dr. Peers also was a member, presented him with a gift.—*Sacramento Bee*, October 8.

**Alcoholism Is Called U. S. Health Threat**

Chicago, Oct. 4.—(AP.)—Two medical writers declared today that "alcoholism in America is a serious national health problem," estimating that there are 600,000 chronic alcoholic addicts, 2,000,000 heavy drinkers and 38,000,000 "social drinkers."

Dr. Robert V. Seliger, psychiatrist at Johns Hopkins Hospital, Baltimore, and Victoria Cranford, psychotherapist at a Cantonville, Md., sanatorium, reported in the *Journal of the American Medical Association*:

We understand the effects of our national expansion, restlessness, heterogeneity, industrialism and historical growth on the incidence of alcoholism to be enormous, owing to mass and individual insecurity and change in

nearly all spheres of life plus quantity and quality of mobile living . . .

Mental illness, juvenile delinquency and criminality are, like alcoholism, partly derived from environmental situations, and also, like alcoholism, they are on the increase. Society must assume its responsibilities on a realistic basis to help provide environments that do not tend to produce retarded or warped personalities.—*Sacramento Bee*, October 4.

**Modern Midwife**

Nurse midwives deliver about 1,200 babies each year in the United States. Graduate nurses with two years' professional nursing experience, they still are comparatively new among the thousands of licensed midwives in this country. Another 250,000 American babies a year are born with the aid of unlicensed midwives, who know all about old superstitions but little of modern hygiene. Of America's yearly baby crop, 8.1 per cent get their post-natal spank from midwives. The southern states have the greatest number. The nurse midwife cooperates closely with a doctor, and usually delivers a baby only when a doctor is unavailable.—*San Francisco Chronicle*, October 25.

**Strike Snags Medical Journal**

Chicago, Oct. 11.—(AP.)—For the first time in 62 years the *Weekly Journal of the American Medical Association* was not circulated today because of a Chicago commercial compositors' strike.

The Association said it was notifying its 110,000 subscribers that back issues containing material intended for publication during the strike would be issued when the walkout has ended. The *Journal* serves as an exchange of scientific information among members of the medical profession.—*Los Angeles Herald and Express*, October 11.

**State Medicine Deemed Remote In California by Physicians**

("Christian Science Monitor").—The California Medical Association assumes that enactment of compulsory health insurance, which it vigorously opposed, has been warded off here for the immediate future, though government insurance for medical care has been pushed harder in California than in any other state.

The Association believes that its own declaration of principles on this controversial question, plus its own voluntary medical insurance plan known as the California Physicians' Service, will provide ample safeguards against possible revival of the issue in this State.

The Association successfully combated two bills which came before the Legislature this year, and won both points by basing its attack on the assertion that regimentation of the public and of the medical doctors was proposed under a system of State medicine.

The statement of principles adopted recently by the Council of the Association listed affirmatively the grounds for the Association's opposition.

A primary consideration in any system of budgeted medical care, the Council asserted, must be that there shall be no deterioration in the quality of medical service.

Another point is that any system of medical care should be voluntary and not compulsory in nature.

The medical doctors had the help of many groups, likewise opposed to compulsory medical insurance, when they opposed the two proposed measures before the State Legislature this year.

"Any sound health insurance program," the Council of the Medical Association sets forth, "should fully protect freedom of choice, both of the patient in choosing a physician and of the physician in choosing his community, type of practice, and professional procedures."

The function of the State, rather than to compel universal health insurance, the Council holds, should be to encourage voluntary health insurance programs such as its California Physicians' Service, and "not regiment the patient and the medical profession or operate compulsory health insurance plans established by political means."

The Council of the Association recommends a coordinated program on the part of all groups concerned with the problem of health or medical insurance. The Association's speakers frequently have paid their respects to the religious organizations and veterans' bodies which opposed the proposed compulsory legislation on quite other grounds from those advanced by the medical profession.

"The sanctity of the patient-physician relationship must be maintained," also says the statement of principles, "and the method of providing medical care must not become enmeshed in bureaucratic red tape and a system of